REMARKS:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 7-9, 12, 17, 23, 24 and 31 have been amended. New claim 39 has been added. Claims 2, 10, 11, 18, 19, 25, 26, 32 and 33 stand cancelled. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1, 3-9, 12-17, 20-24, 27-31 and 34-39 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

Claims 1, 3-9, 12-17, 20-24, 27-31 and 34-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsiao (U.S. Patent No. 5,848,137) in view of Uchida et al. (JP 06290121A) and Horiuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,272,530).

Hsiao discusses an intermediate type of processing device for managing messages including telephone, facsimile, e-mail messages where the processing device receives and displays all the messages upon determining the form of the messages.

The Examiner compares the Hsiao intermediate type of processing device for accordingly displaying messages including telephone, facsimile, e-mail messages with the e-mail managing function of the present invention. According to the Hsiao system, a multimedia message is received via a processing device, and the message is screened and arranged by a control unit (see, column 3, lines 46-49 of Hsiao). An index data is shown on a display unit using which a user selects appropriate function keys to preview content of a desired message on the display device, to print out a data file via the printing device, to transfer a data file to another computer, or to delete a data file from the storage unit (see, column 4, lines 8-22 of Hsiao). This means that the intermediate type of processing device of Hsiao receives all telephone, facsimile, e-mail messages and only allows remote users to download stored files related to the messages from the processing device (see, column 5, lines 17-26 of Hsiao).

Uchida et al. discusses an e-mail system that determines whether an e-mail has been read by transmitting a control mail with time information such that the e-mail read using one terminal is displayed as existing e-mail in other terminals.

The Examiner acknowledges that the Hsiao system does not specifically teach storing state information of each e-mail in a status memory where the state information indicates whether an e-mail is downloaded to the electronic devices from the telephone, thus relies on Uchida et al. as providing the same. In Uchida et al., an e-mail receiving means receives an e-mail group distributed to a terminal from a server according to an e-mail distribution demand (see, paragraph 9 of Uchida et al.). A control mail with time information regarding the e-mail group that received

the e-mail is transmitted to the e-mail group (see, paragraph 9 of Uchida et al.), and when the terminals receive messages from the server, the Uchida et al. system detects the control mail information and only displays the e-mails having newest control mail from the detected control mail of the e-mail group (see, paragraph 23 and 24 of Uchida et al.). Accordingly, the Uchida et al. system is directed to displaying messages as read/unread by detecting control mail having time information.

Horiuchi discusses a transmitter-receiver for an electronic mail system according to which a plurality of mail service providers are offered as a single service in appearance and a user can utilize e-mails without being conscious of requirements of the corresponding service providers.

The Examiner acknowledges that neither Hsiao nor Uchida et al. teach a telephone with an e-mail managing function connected with a plurality of terminal devices and having a mail status memory for storing each state of the e-mail stored in the memory in order to manage the e-mail based on the status of the e-mail corresponding to each terminal device, thus relies on Horiuchi as teaching the same. The Horiuchi system inquires capability of terminals via which e-mails are accessed and stores the information of capability at a terminal capability storage unit (see, column 3, lines 36-41 of Horiuchi). As shown in FIG. 3 of Horiuchi, information of the capability of the terminals indicates a terminal has a capacity to receive and display a text of 30KB or less and capability to display an image of up to 320*200 pixels in binary (see, column 3, lines 55 Horiuchi). This means that the Horiuchi system is limited to storing and using information necessary for accessing mails without requiring a user to have knowledge of each access requirement corresponding to various service providers.

The combination of Hsiao, Uchida et al., and Horiuchi results in a processing device for managing messages where the processing device receives and displays all the messages including telephone, facsimile, e-mail messages upon determining the form of the messages, determining whether an e-mail has been read by transmitting a control mail with time information such that the e-mail read using one terminal is displayed as existing e-mail in other terminals, and a transmitter-receiver according to which a plurality of mail service providers are offered as a single service in appearance such that a user utilizes the e-mails without being conscious of requirements of the corresponding service providers.

In contrast, the mail memory of the present application stores an electronic mail sent to "a user" or "to the one predetermined address to be accessed via at least one of the plurality of electronic devices" as recited in each of the independent claims 1, 7-9, 17, 24 and 31 of the present application. This is unlike the Hsiao processing device that receives and displays all

messages to a user (see, column 4, lines 14-24 of Hsiao). The present application further stores and displays "each state of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory so as to correspond to each of the electronic devices" where the mail status memory indicates whether or not the electronic mail is "down-loaded" or "has been transmitted" and "to which of the electronic devices from a telephone" as recited in each of the independent claims 1, 7-9, 17, 24 and 31 of the present application. This is unlike the Uchida et al. directed to displaying messages as read/unread by detecting control mail having time information. Thus, because the combination of Hsiao and Uchida et al. does not teach or suggest a mail management function including storing and displaying "each state of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory so as to correspond to each of the electronic devices" where the mail status memory indicates whether or not the electronic mail is "down-loaded" or "has been transmitted" and "to which of the electronic devices from a telephone", withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

According to the mail status memory of the present application, "state of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory so as to correspond to each of the electronic devices" is stored, as recited in each of the independent claims 1, 7-9, 17, 24 and 31, and in FIGS. 5-8 and corresponding text of the present application, allowing the present invention to solve problems occurring when a user accesses and processes an electronic mail via a plurality of devices. The Horiuchi system refers to storing capabilities of terminals (see, FIG. 3 and corresponding text of Horiuchi), and does not teach or suggest storing and displaying "state of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory so as to correspond to each of the electronic devices". Thus, because the combination of Hsiao, Uchida et al., and Horiuchi does not teach or suggest storing status of an electronic mail in relation to each of the plurality of electronic devices including whether the electronic mail is downloaded, transmitted, or received, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In addition, dependent claims 3-6, 12-16, 20-23, 27-30 and 34-38 recite patentably distinguishing features. For example, as recited in claims 12 and 34, a process specifying unit is provided "for specifying, for each electronic device, how the electronic mail transmitted to the electronic mail should be processed. Further, as recited in claims 20 and 27, the present invention includes "processing the received electronic mail based on a process specifying information for each electronic device". The cited references either alone or in combination do not teach or suggest, "processing the received electronic mail based on a process specifying information".

Accordingly, withdrawal of all outstanding rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 39 has been added to emphasize a method for controlling an electronic mail including storing "a mail status table for the electronic mail corresponding to each of the plurality of electronic devices, ...the mail status table of the electronic mail indicating respective status of the electronic mail pertaining to each of the plurality of electronic devices" such that the electronic mail is integratedly controlled based on the mail status table of the electronic mail corresponding to each of the plurality of electronic devices, where operations executed in relation to the electronic mail are respectively reflected via the plurality of electronic devices.

The cited references either alone or in combination do not suggest or teach, "a mail status table" based on which the electronic mail is controlled such that "operations executed in relation to the electronic mail are respectively reflected via the plurality of electronic devices".

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 39 is allowable.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____

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